

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPC**

A meeting of Limerick City and County Council, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on **the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022** in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle and via MS Teams.

**In Attendance:** An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary

SPC Members Present: Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Tom Ruddle, Cllr. Tom Collopy, Cllr. Sarah Kiely, Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne, Cllr. Mike Donegan, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Cllr. Sharon Benson, Cllr. Joe Leddin, Cllr. Conor Sheehan, Cllr. Adam Teskey, Cllr. Sean Hartigan, Ms. Tracy McElligott, Mr. P.J O'Grady, Ms Siobhan Reidy, Mr. Patrick English.

**In Attendance:** Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Housing  
Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Service, Regeneration  
Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Brendan Kidney, Senior Engineer, Housing  
Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Martina Frawley, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jennifer Ahern, Staff Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jurate Andrijauskienė, Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Shane Feane, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Eóin Lehane, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jeannine Butler, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms. Amanda Glasper, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Mr. Cathal Doherty, Journalist, Limerick Leader

**Apologies:** Cllr. Brigid Teefy, Cllr. James Collins, Mr. Mike McNamara, Ms. Una Burns, Ms. Dee Ryan, Ms Anne Cronin, Ms. Dorothy Quinn, Mr. Brendan Troy, Mr. Brian Bourke, Ms. Patricia Philips, Ms. Triona O'Connor, Mr. Rory Culhane, Ms. Jennifer Brett, Ms Elaine O'Connor, Ms Noelle Deedigan.

### **Welcome by Chairperson – Cllr. Stephen Keary**

Cllr. Stephen Keary opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the December SPC meeting.

### **Item 1: Confirm minutes from meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Proposed:** Cllr. Adam Tesky

**Seconded:** Cllr. Sarah Kiely

### **Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising from previous minutes.

### **Item 3: Social Intervention Fund - Plans for funding after 2023 (Request for update from PPN Linkage Group)**

Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Service, Limerick Regeneration updated the Group on The Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Plans for funding after 2023.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

- An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary asked (1) what budget was made available for 2022, what is the budget for 2023 and what is the staff complement? and (2) Does the budget come from central government or Limerick City and County Council resources?  
Mr. Joe Delaney in response to Cllr. Keary (1) the ESIF targets regeneration areas in the city, namely Moyross, Southill, St. Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston, and supports projects that focus on social inclusion in the areas listed. The budget is between €3m and €4m per year and is adequately staffed. Funding from the Economic and Social Intervention Fund is additional to mainstream funding for such projects under existing statutory programmes (2) Mr. Delaney confirmed that the ESIF is fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Cllr. Sarah Kiely asked (1) has adjudication on the ESIF funding for 2023 taken place? (2) In relation to addiction services, are Limerick City and County Council actively working on further funding streams after regeneration has finished, (3) Regeneration and funding in general, what is the nature for quantifying and how successful has it been overall.  
Mr. Delaney updated the group, and advised there is 1) an improved online assessment process for 2023, (2) Limerick Regeneration is available to assist groups to source additional funding streams. Whilst the ESIF 2023 submission date has closed, it is Council's intention to meet with the Department to discuss available funding and (3) Mr. Delaney confirmed there is an ESIF monitoring and evaluation process and KPMG will assess the outcomes of the ESIF funding.
- Cllr. Adam Tesky asked (1) if Limerick Regeneration are still purchasing houses, (2) do Limerick Regeneration check if vendors have a criminal record and (3) What is the maximum purchase price under regeneration?  
Mr. Joe Delaney in response to Cllr. Tesky confirmed that 1) Limerick Regeneration continue to purchase houses for social housing and to facilitate development  
(2) Limerick Regeneration undertake garda vetting on social housing applicants prior to allocation  
(3) Limerick Regeneration are provided with Unit Cost Ceilings (UCCs) by the DHLGH
- Cllr. Stephen Keary asked (1) about the status of the modular housing partially constructed in Moyross.  
Mr. Delaney replied that (1) some of the houses were almost ready for occupation and that the remaining houses are being assessed by Peter McVerry Trust who are currently on-site.

**Item 4: Draft Housing One-Rep Policy**

Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy and Non-LA Housing Construction provided a reworked draft of the "Housing One-Rep Policy" and the "Housing Public Representative Nomination Form" following on from September workshops with elected members and internal consultation.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

- Cllr. Adam Tesky highlighted the need for a secure online form. Ms. Helen Creed in response to Cllr. Tesky confirmed that an online system is being investigated and that security would be a key requirement of any online platform.
- Cllr. Stephen Keary requested that the line in the draft housing one-rep policy "One Councillor or one Oireachtas member can make representations on behalf of a customer in

relation to housing matters" be amended to "One Councillor or TD or Senator can make representations on behalf of a customer in relation to housing matters".

In response to Cllr. Keary, Ms. Creed confirmed that the wording would be amended as suggested.

- Cllr. Sarah Kiely enquired how the nomination form would work where a Councillor wasn't notified of the nomination.  
Ms. Creed confirmed that a declaration form on the "Housing Public Representative Nomination Form" must be signed by the applicant confirming they have contacted the Councillor.
- Cllr. Sharon Benson asked what happens if representation is changed.  
Ms. Creed confirmed that as per the policy any changes in nominated representation must be communicated by the applicant in writing to the Housing Directorate i.e. change in representation, withdrawing consent etc., and recorded on the relevant systems as outlined in the policy.  
Ms. Creed added that where representation is changed, Limerick City and County Council can notify the previously nominated representative.
- Cllr. Michael Donegan asked how the nominated representation would be recorded on the system after January 2023 and if it can be done electronically.  
Ms. Creed confirmed that nominations for representation would be added to the housing system i-house, on file, or where practicable uploaded to SugarCRM. Ms. Creed confirmed that an online system is being investigated.
- Cllr. Tom Collopy enquired (1) how Limerick City and County Council establish they are dealing with a particular Councillor and (2) enquired about existing cases where Councillors have representations.  
Ms. Creed advised that (1) Limerick City and County Council should use all reasonable measures to verify identity where necessary and confirmed that there is an agreed protocol within the Council for the release of personal data to Councillors.  
Ms. Creed stated that (2) where a public representation nomination form is received for an existing case on the same matter that the policy in effect at the time would overwrite any previous representations on cases to enable cases to be closed out and resolved.

**On the proposal of Cllr. Sarah Kiely seconded by Cllr. Eddie Ryan, it was agreed that the draft Housing One-rep policy be recommended to Council for adoption.**

#### **Item 5: Reporting to SPC from HDSG (Housing Disability Strategic Group)**

Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer advised that the "Housing and Disability Steering Report 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022" figures circulated were for noting.

#### **Item 6: Updates**

- *Update from Working group on vacancy*

Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Housing confirmed that a full report would be presented at the next SPC.

Ms. Curley informed the SPC that the following documents were adopted at the Council meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022:

- *Mid-West Homeless Plan 2022-2025*

- *Homeless Policy*
- *Anti-Social Behaviour*

#### **Item 7: AOB**

Question submitted by the PPN Linkage Group Facilitator Tracey McElligott, Sectorial Representative, Community/Voluntary:

1. Discussion relating to right-sizing in terms of (1) reducing turn-around times and (2) ensuring the household that is right-sizing has a quality home to move into.

In response to (1) Ms. Creed, Administrative Officer advised that future houses under the private rightsizing scheme would be purchased under the SHIP acquisition stream, which has a target refurbishment sunset clause of 6 months post sale completion.

Ms. Creed in response to (2) informed the group that the Private Rightsizing Scheme aims to ensure that the household that is rightsizing has a quality home to move into. The pilot scheme at Mungret Gate provided:

- Spacious 2 bed townhouses and 2 bed apartments above the required minimum floor area standards
- A sustainable location between Raheen and Dooradoyle, 5km from Limerick City Centre, set in a well-established and well-serviced area
- A benefit from countryside surroundings with plenty of activities nearby including a playground, stunning scenery and 2km of walk and cycle paths
- Low maintenance finishes and a high A2 BER rating
- High quality external finishes and large private gardens approx. 5m x 9m long
- Wraparound management function with 24/7 telecare by Clann Housing – a dedicated age-friendly housing AHB.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

- Cllr. Sarah Kiely asked in relation to any of the new or proposed right sizing schemes if (1) pets were not allowed and (2) what are the plans for the future in relation to this? Cllr. Kiely stated that pets should be allowed in apartments and this would be an additional incentive for people who wish to right-size.
- Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer in response to (1) stated that it's permissible to have pets in townhouse accommodation. Ms. Newell advised that (2) Limerick City and County Council can discuss with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) their policy regarding pets.
- Cllr. Sharon Benson asked if an invitation could be extended to Cena the traveller led voluntary accommodation association to present on the work, they do with Travellers to address critical accommodation needs.
- Cllr. Sarah Kiely added it would be better to prioritise the larger AHB's, add one or two per SPC.
- Ms. Curley stated it's for members to decide but highlighted that there are 53 Approved Housing Bodies actively working in Limerick and if the SPC were to invite every AHB to present that this would take a number of years.
- Cllr. Tom Collopy welcomed inviting the AHB's as it would be a learning curve and education for all Councillors.

Cllr. Sarah Kiely stated she would be of the opinion not to overload the SPC in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services and to concentrate on the important strategic tasks the SPC has as a committee of the council, to advise and assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy.

Cllr. Sharon Benson also added that it's probably best to prioritise inviting the larger AHB's in the city at each SPC throughout the year.

**On the proposal of Cllr. Sharon Benson seconded by Cllr. Sarah Kiely, it was agreed that**

**“Cena, the Traveller led Voluntary Accommodation Association would be invited to present on the work they do at the next SPC”**

**February SPC meeting date Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary thanked everyone who attended the SPC and wished all a Merry Christmas.

**END OF MEETING**